

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 EUR-25 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 L-03 MC-02 RSR-01 /064 W
----- 077530

R 311101 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1669
SECDEF WASHDC
CNO
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2037

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT BY RADM GERHARD

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY ARMISH/ MAAG THAT RADM
GERHARD IS PLANNING TO VISIT TEHRAN APRIL 19-24 TO PRESENT
FINDINGS OF MINE COUNTERMEASURE STUDY TO IIN. RADM
GERHARD ALSO PROPOSES AUDIENCE WITH
SHAH TO REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN F-14 PROGRAM SINCE

F-14/ F-15 TEAM BRIEFING LAST SEPTEMBER. FOR FOLLOWING
REASONS WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE F-14
BRIEFING WOULD BE OPPORTUNE:

A. DURING APRIL WE ARE REQUESTING FIVE AUDIENCES
WITH SHAH FOR HIGH LEVEL VISITORS INCLUDING GENERAL RYAN
AND GENERAL GOODPASTER. WE DO NOT WISH TO OVERLOAD CIRCUIT
WITH ANOTHER REQUEST.

B. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NEITHER SHAH NOR HIS SENIOR
MILITARY STAFF HAS REQUESTED UPDATE ON F-14 PROGRAM.
GRUMMAN/ USN FINANCIAL DEALINGS ARE REGULARLY
REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS; TO PUSH HARD ON F-14 MIGHT
CREATE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO USE IRANIAN
PROGRAM TO EASE PROSPECTIVE BURDEN ON USG. AS GENERAL RULE
WE SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO GOI EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
INTO WEAPON SYSTEMS BUT NOT TAKE ANY INITIATIVE
WHICH MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS " PRESSURE" ON IRAN, ESPECIALLY
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IF EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION IS SOPHISTICATED OR EXPENSIVE.

C. GRUMMAN TEAM VISITED TEHRAN EARLIER THIS MONTH AND BRIEFED IIAF GENERAL OFFICERS.

D. GOI INTEREST IN F-14 HAS ALWAYS BEEN COUPLED WITH SIMILAR INTEREST IN F-15. IN FACT, THOUGH NO FIRM DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE ON IRANIAN PURCHASE OF EITHER AIRCRAFT, WE HAVE INDICATIONS GOI HAS STRONG PREFERENCE FOR LATTER AIRCRAFT. IN ABSENCE ADVICE TO CONTRARY FROM GOI, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAINTAIN LINKAGE BETWEEN F-14/ F-15 PROGRAMS AND SCHEDULE ONLY BRIEFINGS WHICH COVER BOTH AIRCRAFT.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT F-14 BRIEFING BE DEFERRED UNTIL WE HAVE FIRM GOI REQUEST OR UNTIL SIGNIFICANT

DEVELOPMENTS IN BOTH F-14 AND F-15 PROGRAMS WARRANT JOINT PRESENTATION TO IRANIANS.

3. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, WELCOME RADM GERHARD' S VISIT TO PRESENT RESULTS MINE COUNTERMEASURE STUDY. SHOULD HE DECIDE TO DEFER VISIT, WE PRESUME TEAM CHIEF COULD MAKE PRESENTATION TO IIN.
HELMS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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USCINCEUR
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